FOR MYSORE STATE

Firka Development (1950-) Department

MS SERIES.

G.O. NO. 69

Dated 28/1/'50

[Despatch Abstract.]

M.L.A - Starred Q No 71 by Janab M. Ibrahim Bahdur - Regarding the abolition of the F.D. Scheme - Answer furnished - Papers -

ABOLITION OF FIRKA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

a* 12.Q.- Janab S.MUHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Firka Development Scheme is going to be abolished?

The Hon.Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "No".

Janab S.MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:- "Now that the Firka Development Scheme is going to stay, may I know how and in what way the people of the province have been benefited by this Firka Development Scheme?"

MR. SPEAKER:- "Is it a very large scheme and I am afraid whether it can be answered now?"

Sri V.RAHAVAYYA:- "Is it a fact, Sir, that the Firka Development Scheme is going to be extended to two more firkas in each district?"

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN:- "Yes Sir."

Janab MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI:- "Are the Government at least satisfied that the scheme has been a success with reference to the money that has been spent on it so far?"

The Hon.Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "They are quite satisfied, Sir."

Janab M.A.MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM:- "MAY I know whether the Government are fully satisfied with the economic possibilities of the scheme?"

The Hon.Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:-"Yes, Sir."

Janab H.S.Hussain:- "May I know the total cost of the Firka Development Scheme that has been working in this province so far, Sir?"

The Hon. Sri B.BARAMESWARAN:- "A separate question may be put, Sir."

Sri V.M.RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:- "May I ask whether it is not a fact that when the scheme was first started, it was the intention of the Government to extend it to one more firka every year, that it has been halted now and if so, when the Government propose to extend the scheme to the other firkas in the various districts?"

The Hons.Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "Orders have already been passed extending the scheme to two more firkas in each district."

Sri L.C.PAIS:- "Now that Panchayats Act is going to be passed, may I know whether the Government still think it necessary to have this firka Development Scheme?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "This scheme will help the Government to work the panchayats Act very successfully."

Sri G.KUMARASWAMI:- " Is it not a fact, Sir, that many Firka Development Officers and Village Development Officers have been given special training for making development as success in all the villages of their firkas?"

~~Sri D.V.RAMASWAMI:- "~~
The Hon. Sri B.Parameswaran:- "Yes, Sir."

Sri D.V.RAMASWAMI:- "Is it not a fact, Sri, that the Firka Development Scheme, so far as Visakhapatnam district is concerned, has been reported by the Collector to be making distinct progress?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "Yes, Sir."

Sri S.NAGARAJA MANIGAR:- "Is it not a fact, Sir, that these firkas are chosen, one for each district, more to serve as models, since the area of the firka is much smaller when compared with the area of a district?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "The idea of choosing contiguous firkas is to see that the work is carried out more easily by one Firka Development Officer."

Sri k.T.KOSALRAM:- "Is the Hon. Minister aware that the President of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee in a recent speech has remarked that the Firka Development Scheme is a colossal waste of public funds? If so, do the Government think of abandoning the scheme altogether?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "That is his opinion, Sir. I think he has changed his opinion. The Government, in obedience to the wishes of hundreds of villagers and the wishes of several hon. Members here, have extended the Firka Development Scheme to two more firkas in each district."

Janab ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:- "May I know how long the Hon. Minister proposes to keep this scheme in the experimental stage, and if any good has come out of the experiment, when does he propose to make it a province-wide reform?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "It all depends on the enthusiam exhibited by Hon. Members of this House and the co-operation extended by them."

Janab Abdul Hameed Khan:- " I am sorry, Sir, my question has not been understood. Hon. Members of this House have nothing whatsoever to do with the Firka Development Officers. May I ask, Sir, how long this experiment is going to last and whether the experiment has not reached a stage when the good work that is being done in the various firkas may be extended to all the firkas in the province?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- " It is not an experiment. It is the policy of the Government. It is the only work of Gandhian pattern carried on by the Government which touches village life on many sides."

Sri P.NATESAN:- " Since the Hon.Minister took charge of this portfolio only a few months ago, may I know from him what his personal opinion is in regard to the Firka Development Scheme as a scheme—Whether it can be worked successfully and whether it is worth while following it up, more especially in view of the opinion recently expressed by the president of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee?"

The Hon. Sri K.MADHAVA MENON:- "On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I know whether, it is in order for an Hon. Member to ask the personal opinion of an Hon. Minister?"

Mr. SPEAKER:- " No. Only information can be asked for."

The Hon. Sri B.GOPALA REDDI - " Information can be asked for and not opinions."

Sri P. NATESAN:- "After all, Sir, we business people, when we launch a big scheme involving laksh and lakhs of rupees, we always make it a point to personally see if the thing is satisfactory or otherwise. If I were a Minister, I would tell the Cabinet that it is not worth while proceeding with the scheme if I thought that it was not satisfactory."

Mr. SPEAKER:- "This is not a meeting of a Chamber of Commerce.(Laughter). We are a legislatureand the Hon. Member should not ask for the personal opinion of any particular Minister."

Sri B.S.MUTHI:- "Is it not a fact that this Firka Development Scheme has come into existence to make the firkas self-supporting as far as food and raiment are concerned? Therefore may I knwo whether any of these firkas have proved a success in regard to these two items?"

The Hon. SRI B.PARAMESWARAN:- "The work has been very wery sucfessful. The practical results of the work cannot be easily seen, unless hon.Members go and see what is being done in firkas like Tirumangalam and Ongole. Then they will be convinced of the enthusiasm exhibited by the villagers and the co-operation and help given by them to the Government officials."

Sri V.RAGHAVAYYA:- "May I know whether the Government are now prepared to short-circuit the red-tape that is now hampering the quick progress of the Firka Development Scheme?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "I request the hon. Member to kindly come and discuss the matter with me."

Sri V.I. MUNISWAMI PILLAY:- "Arising out of the answer of the Hon.Minister that the new firkas chosen will be contiguous to the existing ones, may I request him to take into confidence the M.L.As. of the district concerned in choosing these firkas?"

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN:- "Their opinion also will be taken into consideration, Sir."

Sri A.VEDARATNAM PILLAI:- "May I know when the proposed extension will take place, Sir?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:-"The Regional Firka Development Officer is compiling a list and as soon as it is done, the names of the firkas will be announced."

Sri S.NAGAPPA:- "Arising out of the answer of the Hon.Minister that the existing Firka Development Officers will be entrusted with the work in two more firkas, may I know whether it is the intention of the Government to appoint at least some more Village Development Officers under these Firka Development Officers?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "Certainly, Sir, that is already being done."

Dr. M.J.SAMUEL:- "Do not the Government think that it is mere duplication of work to appoint these Firka Development Officers and their various assistants to do the same work which is being done by the local health inspector, the Revenue inspector, the minor irrigation overseer, the supervisor of the highways and so on and so forth?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "Every officer has got to paly his part for the development of the village and they are doing it. I do not see any reason why any officer should not take part in the Firka Development Scheme."

Janab H.S.HUSSAIN:- "If firka development is a policy and not an experiment, is there any definite plan spread over a number of years for the extension and completion of the scheme?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "Yes, Sir."

Janab MOHAMED RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI:- "Is it not a fact, Sir, that self-sufficiency of each firka was one of the objective with which the scheme was started and may I know whether the objective has been achieved in any single firka so far?"

The Hon.Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "In several firkas the objective has been achieved."

Janab K.M.SEETHI:- "Have the Government considered the point whether the work that is now entrusted to the Firka Development department cannot be more efficiently discharged by the other departments now existing without the huge expenditure that is incurred on the Firka Development department?"

The Hon. Sri B.Parameswaran:- "No, Sir, It is a special work entursted to persons who have been specially trained for it. If other department people are asked to work, it is only to help the specially trained people.

Janab MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN:- "If really firka development is such an important scheme as is stated to be, why is it that the portfolio is not held by the premier or the Finance Minister or the Law Minister, but is generally held by a Junior Minister?"

The Hon.Sri B.GOPALA REDDI:- "Dr. Gurubatham was not a younger Minister."

Begum Sultan MIR AMIRUDDIN:- " May I know what work is done in the Firka Development Scheme with reference to women?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- " I have on more than one occasion appealed to women to go into the villages and do village uplift work. If women go and see really what work is being done there, they will be fully convinced."

Sri K.VARADACHARI:- "Can the Hon. Minister give a categorical assurance that this Firka Development Scheme will be periodically and progressively extended to every district in the province?"

A/ The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "That question will be considered,Sir."

Begum Sultan MIR AMIRUDDIN:- "Is it not a fact that there is a Women's Welfare department in the province for looking after the interests of women; and so far as women are concerned, is not the Firka department a duplication of the Welfare department, the Health department, etc? Will not the Government therefore exercise their discretion in view of economy and abolish this Firka department?"

The Hon. Sri B.PARAMESWARAN:- "This is a work wherein the co-ordination and co-operation of all departments and of women are needed; the intention of the Government is to get the co-operation of all organizations, whether they belong to women or to men."

Mr. SPEAKER:- "I have allowed fifteen minutes for this question; I am now passing on to the next question."

/True copy/

M.N. Rharadwaj
SUPERINTENDENT.

hch.25/5.

Firka Development Department.

To A.S.

Please see the L.A.Question No.71 of Mr.S.Md.Ismail Sahib Bahdur, M.L.A. on page 1 c.f. The question is a starred one. An advance copy of the question has separately been circulated to H.M.(R.D.). A draft answer is submitted for approval. The answer is couched in a simple negative. In this connection it may be stated that as the villagers have taken very enthusiastically to the Firka Development work in the selected firkas and centres, the Govt. have recently issued orders that two more firkas in each district except Madras and Visakapatnam and four firkas in Visakapatnam district be selected for implementing the intensive R.R.Work.

Firka Development Department.

To A.S.

The question has been answered in the Assembly on 8-11-1949. The printed proceedings of the Assembly may be awaited till 20-12-1949.

To A.S.

Please see the extracts from the printed proceedings of the Assembly on pp. 9-15 c.f.

'A' on p. 15 c.f.:- It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member in asking the question has in mind the question of extending the Scheme to the entire province so as to cover all the rural areas. The Scheme is already in force in one or two firkas in each district in the Province except Madras. The Scheme was first launched in September 1946 in 34 selected firkas and centres. The Government have ordered in July 1949 that the Scheme should be extended to 50 new additional firkas. It appears to be the intention of the Govt to gradually extend the Scheme to the entire Province in due course. In view of this, no action appears called for. The papers may be recorded after circulation to the H.M.(R.D.).

G.O.Ms.No.69, dated 28-1-1950.

M.L.A. - Starred Q.No.71

G.O.Ms.No.69 dated 28-1-1950.

M.L.A. - Starred Q.No.71 by Janab M.Ismail Sahib Bahdur - Regarding abolition of the F.D. Scheme - Answer furnished - papers - recorded.

/True copy/

SUPERINTENDENT.

hch.26/5.

Compared by.
U. Ramadoss 26/5
M.R. Saroja